

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING

April 7, 2008

(Approved as Amended on May 5, 2008)

Geoffrey Maker called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:05 pm in Room 438 of the State House. Members present included John Arsenault, Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Stephan Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Robert Gardner (for Robert McAleer), Ron Green, Alan Johnston, Ed Marks, Alex McPhedran, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Chief Dan Brooks, Representative Dean Cray, Gerry Gay, Senator Richard Nass, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Charles Soltan, Senator Ethan Strimling and David Wacker. Gene Cote of the Maine Fire Instructors and Rescue Educators (MEFIRE) attended as a guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Harty Norris, to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission is pleased to welcome John Arsenault of Turner as a new member. Dan will represent the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters on the Fire Commission.

In accordance with Article 1, Section 1 of the Fire Commission bylaws ... *“Elections of officers shall be held at the regularly scheduled meeting in April, which shall be deemed the Fire Commission’s annual meeting...”* The Elections Committee submitted the following candidates at the March meeting-

Chief Jeffrey Cammack- Chair
Senator Richard Nass-Vice Chair
Geoffrey Maker-Secretary
Chief John Dean- Treasurer

A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Darrel Fournier, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accept the recommendation of the Elections Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee reports a successful 2008 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders. The conference was held on March 13th and 14th (Thursday and Friday) at Verillo's Convention Center in Portland. Maine Municipal Association (MMA) will compile the information from the conference evaluation forms and submit a final report to the Fire Commission in May. Preliminary numbers were similar to the 2007 conference in Bangor and comments and feedback from conference attendees were mostly positive. The vendor area was expanded and proved a popular decision. Some vendors have already indicated interest in the 2009 conference.

The Training Facilities Committee reviewed the latest version of their DVD- "Securing Maine's Future"-during the Spring Conference. The DVD updates the Task Force's 2006 written report to the Fire Commission. The Training Facilities Committee has also developed a "leave behind" and copies were distributed to members. Some suggestions to the DVD included adding more photos of other facilities in New England and documentation of partners. Fire Commission members are encouraged to submit other suggestions or comments. The Training Facilities Committee expects to have a final version of both the DVD and the "leave behind" available at the May meeting.

The Best Practices Committee presented a Best Practice Award to the Herman Fire Department at the 2008 Spring Conference. The Herman Fire Department was chosen for an award by the Fire Commission in recognition of their program to provide and install smoke detectors in the homes of all Herman residents. Chief Larry Willis accepted the award for the Herman Fire Department.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee have temporarily delayed plans to hold a retreat this spring. Members are drafting legislation prior to getting the interested parties together.

Old Business

Fire Commission members received and reviewed updated information on fire service related bills. Members also discussed the effects of the new State Budget on their respective agencies. Some significant points included-

State Fire Marshal's Office- Does not receive General Fund money. Added two new investigators and one paralegal.

Maine Emergency Medical Services- Need to make some technological changes to save money. Board will meet every other month, instead of monthly.

E-911- Did not lose any positions, although their reserve funds were removed.

Maine Emergency Management Agency- Did not lose any positions, although most funds are federal.

Maine Forest Service- Did not lose any positions, although detection contracts were changed to cut back on hours. Three Huey helicopters are “ready to fly”.

Maine Fire Training and Education- No changes at this time.

Fire Commission members were informed that the F.A.S.T. guides were distributed at the Spring Conference. Copies are available on CD.

New Business

The Department of Environmental Protection has proposed rules regarding biomedical waste, exemptions for health facilities and disposal fees. The comment period ends April 11th and Jay Bradshaw has offered to forward the proposed rules to members.

Maine Forest Service announced the 6th Maine State Wildfire Academy takes place on May 31st -June 1st and June 7th- 8th. In past years, the Wildfire Academy has averaged 150-200 students. So far, only 20 students have signed up in 2008. Maine Forest Service requested the Fire Commission’s assistance and support for this important program.

Maine Emergency Management Agency is conducting biofuel training in Bangor, Auburn and South Portland in April or May. MEMA is also looking for other sites to hold this training. MEMA also distributed a flyer announcing the 19th Annual Hazardous Material Conference to be held on June 11th and 12th at the Augusta Civic Center.

The International Code Council is offering a grant for code enforcement with a goal to toughen code enforcement and reduce fires. Darrel Fournier serves on the Code Council.

Fire Commission members were informed that ethanol is being transported on the Maine Turnpike. Members were encouraged to team up with MEMA and other fire departments for training regarding this potential hazard.

Fire Commission members expressed concern that Maine’s fire service personnel were unable to attend the large number of conferences and training programs offered during the year. Members inquired about the feasibility of partnering with other agencies and offering one or two larger events.

Fire Commission members were reminded that the monthly meetings for the rest of 2008 would take place in Florian Hall at the Department of Public Safety Building.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

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| <u>Monday, May 5, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, June 2, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, July 7, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, August 4, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, September 8, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, October 6, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, November 3, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |
| <u>Monday, November 4, 2008</u> | ELECTION DAY | | |
| <u>Monday, December 1, 2008</u> | MEETING | Florian Hall | 1:00pm |

To be scheduled:

Retreat on Recruitment and Retention

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy

